

The Master & the Pupil.

April 23

In the great school-room, while the children are
standing with eyes fixed on their teacher, the master
looks at them.

He regards these young faces attentively, the flatter
heart beat at their words & thoughts as they
pass through his mind.

"Children, you are my young family, my family
by adoption, ~~as~~ as which is renewed every year.
Assembled around me to-day, you will be dispersed.
For the most part at the end of the year. But, near
as far, my heart will follow you.

You do not understand, dear children, confided to
my care, how much your master loves you. Often
you see him look at you with an eye & a little
smile, often he raises his voice to reproach you.
Sometimes he is obliged to punish you. And,
you little imagine all the time how much affection
there is for you in his heart.

"Why has your master studied long, read many
books learnt many difficult matters? and
why does he still labour? Is it not for you?"

"Is it not necessary to tell children before
we can say to ourselves: I will pass my life
in instructing them; I will make myself a
child to the little to make them understand what
I have to teach them; their moment of freedom
their happiness, even their misadventures when
ungrateful, nothing shall disconcert me.

"Yes, my children I love you. I love in you your
parents, of which you are the joy; I love in you
your country, of which you are the hope.

"Tomorrow I love unknown I shall die, but if I can,
I will implant in your spirits principles of truth
& generosity, this will be to me the sweetest reward,
the highest honour. Then I shall be no more, when
grown up, you you will forget, perhaps the teacher of your

26p2m33

your youth something of him will remain in you,
quench your never-dieing passion. When you read, be the
more tempted you to read will still have some share
in you, & when you write be the more guided,
your hand will still have a part in your work; & when
you think of your studies, of your country which
lost its boy for its prosperity, your master shall
have his part in these generous thoughts with
which he has inspired your childhood. In, &
shall not die entirely. For I shall live again
in you.

"Children, your master loves you, he will love you
always. What does he ask of you in exchange?
Nothing more than a little attention to his words &
a little respect for his lessons, and if you have a
heart & a little affection for him."

As the master thus said his heart was filled with
more than common kindness towards his young
charge.

A pupil who was shortly to leave the school, who had
always been amongst the first, having finished
his task before the others, clapped, & with a thoughtful
considerance, looked at his master.

Then, as if these thoughts answered the one to the
other, to child began to think that he would soon be
leaving the familiar school-room, his comrades
& his master. A feeling of gratitude was in him
him he said: "Many thanks ~~to~~ for my return
& my master's love that he has done for me!"

L. J. M. P. M. C.

Pestalozzi.

None who has shown greater love for the young, nor
one has sacrificed more for their instruction than
Pestalozzi, to whom the teaching in our schools
now represents of the greatest importance.
Born at Zurich in Switzerland. In 1766 Pestalozzi

Exp 183

could tear from his mother to have laid on the cross,
to make himself useful to his fellows, especially
to those who suffered. Looking to find a remedy
for the miseries of the people, he set himself, in
the first place to the study of jurisprudence, in
the hope of discovering some useful reform in
the laws which should diminish misery. But
he was not slow to be convinced that the best
remedy is in the enlightenment of the people
rather than in change of laws.

"He might have the most perfect laws," said he, "that would not be enough; the pulse of the nation is in the schools; it is the schools which must be reformed."

It now light broke in upon him. he resolved to become a schoolmaster.

"Noble profession," cried he, "perhaps the most beautiful of all; I make my choice for. I will surround myself with children; I will instruct them, I will love them, & by so doing I shall win for myself more happiness than if I occupied a high position in the State."

Full of this generous purpose he gathered together some eighty poor children, homeless, & friendless, and abandoned one to beggary. "I will give you, he said to them, "by instructing you the means of forming an honest livelihood."

And he set them to work ^{properly} which he had structured with a view to the reformation of the place into a school. He fed & taught those little ones. As none paid him for his work he had soon spent the little fortune which he possessed. But his new method of education was so attractive, his heart so generous, his efforts so persevering, that he had succeeded in transforming into reasonable beings & hundreds of vagabond children, born reared in vice.

His fortune was ruined it is true, but his method of education had succeeded, he felt himself richer than before.

26p700023

It is his method, in fact, which is followed in
his day in most schools, at home abroad. It
is thanks to him that study has become easy
& softer & attractive for the children.

Instead of being discouraged at the loss of his
kathemery, Pestalozzi found means to
establish new schools always with the same
success. He was not without his mental weaknesses
feared of his success - desiring to improve
him, pretended that he did not know how to write,
nor to calculate, nor even to read with ease.
And he, in his beautiful modesty, said:
'I have, in fact, forgotten all these things, but in
precisely the need of this knowledge which induces
me to invent the most simple method of teaching
for those who are the most ignorant.'

In those who are the most ignorant
the learned & intelligent however gathered from
all parts in order to visit the schools of which
they had heard such marvellous accounts, &
to see the extraordinary man who directed them.

Those who were present at the examinations
could not contain their surprise on seeing the
rapid progress of the pupils in the different branches
of various studies. But the greatest
pleasure was to hear Pestalozzi himself question
& teach. It seemed a very simple matter to
do as he did, but everybody knew that in his
very simplicity lay the difficulty. The children
learned without perceiving that they were at
work.

If Pestalozzi became famous, he certainly did
not become rich; far from that, all that he possessed
he spent on the children. He died, very poor, as he
had lived, in 1827.

"My life," said he to one of his friends, "has been, during
thirty years, a struggle against misery. Almost exclusively,
even now, I can not forsake society, because

24p50-33

knolly, well in Latin & Greek - better, I believe, than I
should have done if I had been at a first-rate school my
self; & I hope I did the boys some good, & taught some
of them that learning was not the best quality to
start in life with. And I was not often very un-
happy, for I could always look forward to my
holiday with my father.

"However soon that I was never better pleased than
on Christmas, when the Vicar came over from
College, & brought with him a letter from the Principal
of St. Andrew College, Oxford, appointing me to
a scholar ship. My father was even more delighted
than I, & we had a merry evening over the news.
The Vicar took occasion in the course of the
evening, to hint that it was only poor men
who took their place at the University, & that I
might find some inconvenient scruples con-
venient, by not being in exactly the same position
as other men. But my dear old father could not
hear of it; I was now going to be amongst the very pick
of English gentlemen - what could it matter whether
I had money or not?"

"I went to the door with the Vicar, who told me to come
and see him in the morning. Chalfreese & I went to
waited to see me. He knew all my father's
affairs perfectly well, & wished to prepare me
what was coming in the evening. 'Your father,' he
said, 'is one of the most liberal men I ever met;
he is almost the only person who gives anything
to the poor, rather than Christians in this parish;
he gives to the utmost. You would not wish, I
know, to cut off their gifts, which bring the highest
reward with them, when they are made in the
Spirit in which he makes them. Then he is selling
old rags would never like him to deny himself
the comforts (few enough they are) which he is used
to."

25th June 23

to. He has nothing but his half pay to live on, some of that he pays \$50 a year for insurance, for he has insured his life, that you may have something beside the cottage & the land when he dies. Don't let you think that you may know the facts hereafter. I am sure that you would rather take a penny from him if you could help it. But he won't be happy unless he makes you some allowance & he can spare you £40 a year without crippling himself. Now you will not be able to live properly & upon that up at Bedford, even as a servant. I speak to you now, Jack, as your oldest friend, & you must allow me the privilege of an old friend. Show more than I want, & I propose to make up your allowance at Bedford to £40 a year, without letting your father know. You see what I mean?"

"I remember almost ~~every word~~ for word what the Vicar said; for it is not often in our life that we meet with this sort of friend. At first I thanked him, but refused to take any thing from him. I had saved enough, I said, to carry me through Bedford. But he would not be put off; & I found that his heart was as much set on making me an allowance himself as on saving my father. So I agreed to take £25 a year from him.

"Then we met again in the evening when my father's visit, it was as good as a play to us the dear old man, with his spectacles on his nose before him, passing in some wonderful way that he could easily allow me at least £40 or £50 a year; it was very hard work to convince him that I should want no more than £40. But at last it was settled. & for the next three weeks we were all busy with the preparations for my start.

"And now I have told you how it came to pass that two years ago last October I came to Bedford as a servant."

From Tom Brown at Bedford.